

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 3, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 12, 14 to 18, 32 to 37, 39 to 47, 49 to 53, 67 to 71, 74 and 119 to 121 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71 and 74 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 9, 11, 12, 14 to 18, 32, 33, 35 to 37, 39 to 44, 47, 49 to 53, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, and 119 to 121 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,644,776 (DeRose). Claims 10 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DeRose in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,148 (Rowe). Claims 34 and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DeRose.

The present invention concerns a method of browsing electronically accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. The descriptions are separate from the resources. The invention displays items for selection by a user, the items being displayed without a need to access the resource itself. This feature is particularly useful in the case of large electronically accessible resources, as the invention avoids the time and effort wasted in downloading resources which ultimately are not required by the user.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. The method comprises: reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions having descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, wherein at least one axis of access is a table-of-contents classification, and the descriptions being separate from the resources, and wherein each descriptor component that has an attribute representative of a table of contents also has a link to a corresponding portion of

the electronically-accessible resources; displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in said reading step, and wherein the items are displayed without accessing the resources; receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items; receiving an indication of a further axis of access; displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more descriptor components, and wherein the further items are displayed without accessing the resources; and reading, in response to a further selection of a descriptor component having an attribute representative of a table-of-contents classification, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected descriptor component.

In contrast, DeRose discloses a data processing system and method for generating a representation of an electronic document, for indexing the electronic document, for navigating the electronic document using a representation of the electronic document and for displaying the electronic document. However, according to DeRose, when items are displayed to a user, the displayed items are derived from the resource itself. There is no provision in DeRose for rendering items for viewing wherein the items are displayed without accessing the resources.

This can be seen by a careful reading of DeRose. In DeRose, a document having a descriptive markup may be parsed and an element directory generated. In addition, a table of contents may be generated. (See DeRose, Column 12, Line 56 to Column 13, Line 6 and Column 16, Lines 33 to 62). However, it is not feasible to render

items for display to a user using the element directory and table of contents alone. Instead, the element directory and table of contents are used to navigate the document while rendering requires accessing the actual document. This deficiency in DeRose is best illustrated in Fig. 6. The element directory 91 is described in Fig. 6 is an array of element descriptors 90. Each element descriptor represents an element of the document. Each element descriptor comprises five fields to describe the position of the element descriptor in the tree structure of the SGML document. In addition, field 104 represents the location of text characters for text or other data associated with an element, such as an attribute. Therefore, field 104 is descriptive of the structure of the document including the locations of data to be rendered. However, the actual data to be rendered is not included in the element directory, thus requiring a rendering to actually access the electronic document for displaying purposes. Therefore, it cannot be said that DeRose discloses or suggests that items are displayed without accessing the resources or displaying, in response to a received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items are displayed without accessing the resources.

Furthermore, the table of contents cannot be used to display items without accessing the resources. In DeRose, an entry in a table of contents includes an indication of an element identifier, a type and an element identifier of the next element in the document of the same or higher level. However, when a system in accordance with DeRose renders a table of contents element, the actual item rendered is retrieved from the original document. Thus, for example, when the word "BICYCLE" is displayed as in FIG. 12 of DeRose, the word is retrieved from the actual document, rather than from the table of contents file. Therefore, it cannot be said that DeRose discloses or suggests that items are

displayed without accessing the resources or displaying, in response to a received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items are displayed without accessing the resources.

In light of the deficiencies of DeRose as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 36 and 71 are directed to an apparatus and computer readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 36 and 71 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 32 is directed to a method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource. The method comprises: reading the description of the resource but not reading the resource, the description being separate from the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, the description also having one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, wherein the descriptor components that include a table of contents attribute also have a link to a corresponding portion of the resource; displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute, and wherein the table of contents items are displayed without accessing the resources; receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for the annotation; displaying an index

containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item, and wherein the index items are displayed without accessing the resources; receiving a selection of one displayed index item; associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item; receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item; and associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

As amended, Claim 32 includes the features of displaying one or more tables of contents without accessing the resources and displaying an index containing index items wherein the index items are displayed without accessing the resources. As discussed above in regard to Claim 1, displaying of items without accessing the underlying resource is neither disclosed nor suggested by DeRose. Furthermore, as disclosed in Column 16, lines 33 to 39, the first step in the construction of the table of contents of DeRose is step 210 of Fig. 16 is traversing the document beginning with its root element. Therefore, DeRose teaches that any display of the table of contents of a document requires first accessing the entire document for traversal.

In light of the deficiencies of DeRose as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 32 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.


Amended independent Claims 67 and 74 are directed to an apparatus and computer readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 32. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 67 and 74 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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